(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of Petroleum in the world market is around $ 25 per barrel;

(b) what will be the effect of this on the price of Petroleum products in India; and

(c) what measures Government have planned towards energy conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of major marker crude oil viz Brent crude oil has been trading around US $ 25 per barrel during the month of November, 1999.

(b) As per the present policy of the Government, the ex-storage point price of diesel is fixed on import parity basis. Accordingly, a change in the price of diesel in the world market is reflected in the price of diesel in the country also.

(c) Government has taken the following measures towards petroleum conservation:

(i) Reduction in the flaring of Associated Natural Gas produced with crude oil;

(ii) Reduction in the fuel losses in the refineries; and

(iii) Conservation measures taken through the Petroleum Conservation Research Association for efficient use of energy in the industrial, transport, agriculture and domestic sectors.

Off Loading of Gail's Shares

1635. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to off-load its stake in Gas Authority of India Ltd. through GDR route;

(b) what has led the Government to off-load its shares; and

(c) how has Government ensured that it is off-loading its stake at the proper price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Disinvestment of Government Equity is a continuous process. The targets from disinvestment proceeds have been reflected in the Budget Estimates for 1991-92 onwards till 1999-2000.

(c) The pricing of GAIL GDRs is based on "Book Building" process. This process essentially means market driven prices *i.e.* the price, which the investors are prepared to pay for a particular share at a given point of time.

Proposal to lay Gas Pipeline from Gopalpur to Chennai

1636. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to lay a pipeline for natural gas from Gopalpur in Orissa to Chennai;

(b) if so, the cost of that line;

(c) whether Government have sanctioned fund for the purpose;

(d) if not, whether external assistance is likely to be made available for the purpose; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Additional LPG Outlets in Meghalaya

1637. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up additional LPG outlets at various districts and sub-divisional Headquarters in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, whether Government have undertaken feasiblity study of the same in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;